

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DOCUMENT NO. 3NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____

AUTH:

16 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DCI

STAT

DATE: 21 APR 1980

REVIEWER: 018645

SUBJECT: The National Roundtable Conference in Indonesia

1. The roundtable conference held in Djakarta on 10-15 September achieved no progress toward any final solution of Indonesia's problems. It has probably temporarily met Prime Minister Djuanda's desire to slow down the drift toward a fragmentation of Indonesia. However, it has apparently not brought Sukarno and Hatta closer together, persuaded Sukarno to loosen his ties with the Communists nor induced the outer island leaders to make any essential compromise in their demands.

2. It is possible that during the next few weeks there will be a change in army command, with Nasution being replaced by a leader more acceptable to the outer island commanders. It is also possible that the rebel commanders on Sumatra may initiate operations to gain control of the Medan area which at present is controlled by military officers still loyal to the central government.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

3. The views of the main protagonists on the major issues can be summarized as follows:

a. The rebellious provincial leaders. In general, they demand more provincial autonomy, a greater share of national revenues, the end of the National Council, the removal of Communists from positions of influence in the government, and the return of Hatta to a major role in the government.

b. Ex-Vice President Hatta. He has maintained that the National Council and the present Djuanda cabinet are unconstitutional and that both should be done away with and replaced by a presidential cabinet headed either by Sukarno or by Hatta. He has supported the concept of giving greater autonomy to the provinces and the elimination of Communist influence in the government.

c. Prime Minister Djuanda. He has tried to play the role of the compromiser and has supported the idea of giving greater autonomy to the provinces while at the same time insisting that central government authority be re-established. He is opposed to Communists in the government.

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

d. The army on Java. Chief of Staff Nasution has continued to support Sukarno and to oppose the action of the rebellious provincial army commanders. He opposed the roundtable conference because it tended to recognize the legitimacy of the rebel provincial regimes. On the other hand, there is a group of officers on Java intent on restoring army unity by pulling it out of politics and by reorganization on a basis of military rather than political loyalties. They appear to believe that Nasution must go if this is to be accomplished. This latter group is anti-Communist but is opposed to the actions of the army leaders on the outer islands.

e. President Sukarno. He has opposed compromising with the outer islanders and believes that Indonesia must be a highly centralized state. He is cool to the return of Hatta, he is opposed to barring the Communists from office in the government and he is unwilling to do away with or modify the National Council, but he is still personally unwilling to assume direct control of the country. He came to the roundtable conference but succeeded in appearing as one not responsible for or bound by the decisions taken therein. The Communists have not played a separate role but have tended to ride Sukarno's coat tails, supporting his position on most issues.

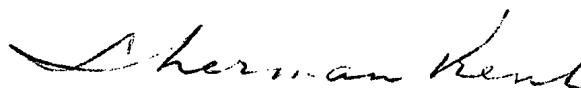
- 3 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

4. The proceedings of the conference were not open to the public but from reports it appears that some of the major participants, especially Hatta and Sukarno, exchanged blunt statements. The reports now available indicate that the conference was successful to the extent that all parties agreed to the principle that the provinces should have more autonomy and a greater share of national funds. However, the highly controversial details have been left to further discussions between the central government and the various provincial regimes. Although Sukarno and Hatta joined in a statement in which they both claimed to be supporting the spirit of Indonesia as set down in 1945, they seem in fact to be further apart than ever. Hatta is reported as saying that he would come into the government only if he were given the freedom to govern responsibly and if there were no Communist participation in government.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES



SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates